

US NAVY NAVELSF

# THE SAND BOX

FORWARD CHARLIE

DIRECT SUPPLY SUPPORT



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## Our Address

**SAILOR'S NAME**  
**NAVELSF**  
**FORWARD C DSS**  
**APO AE 09337**

Tell us what you think of the newsletter or send us questions you would like us to answer. Maybe we'll publish your question(s) on next month's newsletter. Email us at SK2Perez@msn.com

## Newsletter Staff:

- SKC Villacreses
- SK1 Culver
- SK2 Perez
- SK2 Harrison
- SK3 Lewis
- SK3 Cajas
- SK3 Francis
- BM3 Adams

## Mobilization Forward Charlie

### Goldilocks – the Navy Version

By SK1 Fay Culver

We've seen just about every movie re-made at least once, but this time it is a classic children's novel. Goldilocks, no, not the story about the three bears, but about the beds that she slept in, or attempted to sleep in. Well maybe about some bears.

We have had a very similar experience with the beds here at Camp Patriot, some more than others. Some by choice, some not so by choice. We've had our high beds, our low beds, our beds too cold, our beds too hot. But I am getting ahead of myself.

We arrived here in very sunny Kuwait on October 1; the guys went to the tents for their racks, us ladies to a little better accommodation, the open bay barracks. Temperatures, a not so hot 100 degrees plus most days. Our barracks and tents are air-conditioned you know, to sometimes a high of say, 55 degrees or so.

We get to our racks late in the evening, we

just want to crash. We ladies enter our building to find that the advance component of our team have already settled in for the long tour that lies ahead of us. We, who have formed this family of sorts are spread out in the racks, yes bunk beds that are left over. We wave to each other from across the room, and just lay our heads down for the night. Morning comes too soon.

*"People walking around the barracks carrying a mattress is not a strange sight."*

Within days we have a system. Then we are told that we are moving into our permanent barracks. We make the move in groups of two or four, moving into a building that is, thankfully, closer to the bathrooms and showers. We only have enough racks to put us all top and bottom, the other racks being occupied by Army females. We are going to be able to, you guessed it, move again,

but within the barracks this time. That is, once these ladies head back home. It's just a matter of time.

But that's about us ladies. The guys had to wait awhile before they got the word that they were moving into their permanent quarters. Little by little, rank-by-rank, they made the move. Since they moved into this building they have had to do some rearranging, a few having to move once again. Then we have the mattress change outs. People walking around the barracks carrying a mattress is not a strange sight.

So we all relate to Goldilocks, we have had the beds too soft, the beds too hard, and the beds too high. We all just want the bed just right. Lower rack, lights turned off, and the noise level at a minimum. Because if we don't have these, we become those grumpy bears.



## OIC's Message



**LT. Mike B. Bono**

The widows are "frosted". The tree is set up. Lights, garland and mistletoe have all been hung. The sounds of Burl Ives, Gene Autry, and Brenda Lee fill the air. Hickory Farms sausage and cheese are on the table. But somehow it still doesn't feel quite like Christmas here in Kuwait. It's not the fact that it is 75 degrees and sunny, or there are sand drifts instead of snow drifts. It is the undeniable fact that the holiday season is about family. It's about the specific religious and social connotations of how we celebrate it with our families. Unfortunately, the 53 members of DSS will be unable to share the holiday season with our respective families. However, I truly believe we are all learning to appreciate what we have at home, and how much we all are looking forward to celebrating with all at home next year.

I want to wish the entire DSS family here in Kuwait and at home a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Senior Chief's Message



**Senior Chief Storekeeper  
Kevin M. McGregor**

Thanksgiving is my favorite Holiday! Ask anyone who knows me and they will tell you it is true! I like to get up early on Thanksgiving morning, and prepare the turkey. My wife and I work on this together. Soon my kids come down stairs and we make an incredible breakfast.

Later on that morning, we pop the bird in the oven and it cooks all day, filling the house with that great smell that is uniquely Thanksgiving. Family and friends arrive through out the day. We play catch in the back yard and watch football until dinner is served.

We eat until we are ready to pass out and then retire to the family room for more football and a good nap. When we wake, we start in on the left-overs. Then when everyone leaves, my wife and I watch the movie, Planes, Trains, and Automobiles and I laugh out loud, while my wife rolls her eyes at me until she falls asleep. It's a tradition!!!

There are many reasons I love this holiday, but I believe the most important thing to me is that it is uniquely American. On behalf of the entire NAVELSF Forward Charlie

DSS team, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our family and friends back home a happy and safe holiday season.

## Editor's Notes



**Chief Storekeeper  
Byron J. Villacreses**

The holiday season brings with it the opportunity for us to reflect upon the events of the past year. It also allows us to formulate a plan for the upcoming year and to consider lessons learned from the past, in order for us not to repeat mistakes in the future. For the sailors of NAVELSF Forward Charlie Direct Supply Support, although this year has been eventful, we eagerly look forward to a new year that brings us closer to our return home to our loved ones whom we miss dearly.

In this issue, we would like to again thank the families, friends, and employers of our deployed sailors because without their support, their selfless service to our country would not be possible.

Special Thanks to the following individuals and organizations:

- Pioneer Printing Co. for their generosity in facilitating the printing of our newsletter.
- Market Street Trust Co. for the holiday decorations that are currently displayed.
- Corning Inc. Diesel Plant Maintenance Department for the hard hats and protective eyewear.
- Shaharazade Lewis for her generous gift of cookies for our members.
- Kathy Rummel for the holiday cards sent to our sailors.
- Ms. Sue Hurd and her third grade class from Geneseo Elementary in Geneseo, NY for the letters.
- New York Life Insurance Company Agency Department for the box of goodies.
- Girl Scout Troops # 128, 485, 551, 686, 973, 1035 for all the boxes of cookies.

# Announcements

## The French Arrival



At 0430 on Wednesday, 16 November, 2005 the French family welcomed their newest addition to the world, **Matthew Robert French**.

As reported by medical, his BCA (Body Composition Assessment) was listed as: length of 20.5 inches and a weight of 6 lbs. 3 oz. which place him within Navy standards!

On behalf of DSS, we congratulate Storekeeper Second Class Robert French and his family.



**Matthew Robert French**



**Proud father SK2 Robert French**

## Our Dates to Remember

### November Birthdays

**5th Allan Culliver (Dad)**

*Caitlynne Adams*

**15th Phyllis Culliver (Spouse)**

**16th Matthew Robert French (Son)**

**24th Jacob Haflett (Son)**

**27th Elizabeth Villacreses (Spouse)**

### November Anniversaries

**12th Michael & Sandra Anderson**

*(Dad and Step-Mom)*

**30th Bill & Fay Culver (32 years)**

### December Anniversaries

**3rd Fred & Laurie Seip (22 years)**

### December Birthdays

**2nd Sarah Elizabeth Kaine**

**4th Barbara Villacreses (Mother)**

*Dante Guzman*

**6th Destiny Deterville (Daughter)**

**12th Danica Roote (Daughter)**

**14th Adam Dieg (Son)**

**21st Sarah Bono (Daughter)**

*William Roote (Son)*

*Brandon Seip (Son)*

**28th Michael Anderson (Dad)**



**24th**

Name: SK2 Odelle Walker

Hometown: Brooklyn, NY

Occupation: NYPD



## November

## DSS

## Birthday Roll Call

## December



**27th**

Name: Jorge Cajas

Hometown: NY, NY

Occupation: IT Instructor

Quote: "Life is beautiful"



**3rd**

Name: SK1 Fay Culver

Hometown: Miami, OK

Occupation: Executive Director of Miami Main Street Inc.

Quote: "I have thought that I would like to spend this mile marker birthday at a resort somewhere. Sand, beach, and sun— hold it, I have that!"



**8th**

Name: SK3 Alec Francis

Hometown: Mt. Vernon, NY

Occupation: Police Officer

Quote: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country!" (JFK)

Correction: SK3 Francis' Birthday was reported as the 12th vs. the 8th



**12th**

Name: SH2 (SW) Richard Hargraves

Hometown: Dermott, AR

Occupation: Sales Executive



**14th**

Name: SK1 Angelito Atienza

Hometown: Clementon, NJ

Occupation: Construction



## Operation Pen Pal

Featured here are letters from several school students and the sailors who replied.



**P.S. 277 Class 3-212 Mrs. Decker 2529 Gerritsen Ave . Brooklyn, N.Y. 11229**

*Dear Rob and friends,*

*Hi, my name is Tarah I. Timothe'. I hope you come home soon and when you come home you are safe. Thank you for fighting for our freedom. My birthday was two Saturdays ago. Now about me. I live in Long Island. I used to live in Marine Park. I was born October 8, 1997. You have done a lot. Thank you.*

*Sincerely, Tarah 3-212*

**Replied to by SK2 Robert French**



**Geneseo Elementary School, 4050 Avon Rd. Geneseo, NY 14454**

*Dear Sailor,*

*I am Travis. How are you? I am good. Our class says the pledge everyday! Do you? Do you like chores? I don't! I have 5 pets. I have a dog, a cat, 2 fish and a hamster. Do you have any pets? Happy Thanksgiving. That is all I can think of. Bye!*

*Your friend, Travis*

**Replied to by SK2 Daniel Oakley**



**Spring Street School 123, Spring St. Shrewsbury, MA 01545**

*Dear SH2 Steven Anderson,*

*What is your job being a Navy sailor? I hate being bored, don't you? Sorry I didn't tell you my name earlier. My name is Jeremy Rocco. Where are you from?*

*Your pen pal, Jeremy Rocco*

**Replied to by SH2 Steven Anderson**

## Attention to Awards and Promotions!



**Name: Brenda Adams**

**Rank: BMSN promoted to BM3**

**Hometown: Sayre, PA**

**Occupation: Warehouse Technician**

**Quote:** "Trying to make the best of life in Kuwait."



**Name: Phillip Smith**

**Rank: SK3 promoted to SK2**

**Hometown: New Britain, CT**

**Occupation: Construction**

**Quote:** "You are only as good as your leaders around you."



**Name: Frank Lewis**

**Rank: SK3 promoted to SK2**

**Hometown: Bronx, NY**

**Occupation: Listing Coordinator**

**Quote:** "If I told you I was good, you'd say I was boasting. If I told you I wasn't good, you'd know that I was lying." *B.L.*



**Name: Shawn Reynolds**

**Rank: BM2 promoted to BM1**

**Hometown: Corning, NY**

**Occupation: Child Protective Service Worker**

**Quote:** "Unity, not uniformity, must be our aim. Differences must be integrated, not annihilated." *M.P. Follett*



**Congratulations to the following sailors for being recognized for their outstanding contributions to the mission. Pictured from left to right are SK3 Jason Munn, SK2 Felix Perez, SK2 Roxana Gonzalez, and SH3 Herbert Coloma receiving a command coin from the 247th CSB Command Sergeant Major Harry Zeznanski.**

## Thanksgiving Sound Off

*We asked DSS to share their favorite Thanksgiving tradition and here's what we heard.*

### SK2 Ivan Lopez

Visiting family and friends in Long Island City in Queens. We eat a big dinner, listen and dance to Latin music, and eat our favorite desserts, pumpkin pie, spiced eggnog, and Spanish coffee. We then sit and watch movies together to end a well spent family night.

### SK2 Culliver

My parents would drive from California to Oklahoma and from there we would drive to Arkansas to be with my grandmother. We'd celebrate Thanksgiving with a large meal prepared by grandmother consisting of cakes and pies for dessert followed by more family members coming over after dinner and playing a game of UNO.



### Combined Federal Campaign

By SK2 Felix G. Perez

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is the only authorized charitable solicitation of federal employees in the workplace. Hearing the call to formalize charitable solicitation in the workplace, President Kennedy signed an Executive Order to officially create the CFC. Since its inception, the CFC has helped millions of people in need and continues to support and promote philanthropy through a program that is employee-focused, cost-efficient and effective.

DSS participated in the CFC with the following results:

- 89% Participation with 47 out of 53 members making donations
- Amount collected: \$ 2,320
- Unit recognition level: Platinum
- Bronze gift recipients: SH2 S. Anderson, EM1 F. Seip, SKC B. Villacreses

The DSS Campaign Chairman is EM1 Seip whose staff consisted of SK2 French, SK2 Vasquez, HT2 Smith, and SK2 Pierre. All their hard work and dedication paid off in support of this great cause. Thank you all for your contributions.



The "Hooch" and the crew.

From L to R.  
SK1 Houdek  
SK3 Smith, SH2  
(SW) Hargraves  
SH1 Halloway  
BM1 Reynolds  
SK3 Kaine

### Desert Shelter

By BM1 Shawn Reynolds

"If you build it, they will come," is a famous catchphrase from the 1989 film *Field of Dreams* starring Kevin Costner. In the film Ray Cansella, played by Kevin Costner, has a vision of building a baseball field in the middle of his corn crop, to make room for deceased baseball legends to have a field to play on. Storekeeper First Class Jeffrey Houdek had a similar vision, "if you build it they will come," he said. Only in this case the "field" was a hooch and the "they" was the cold weather and rain.

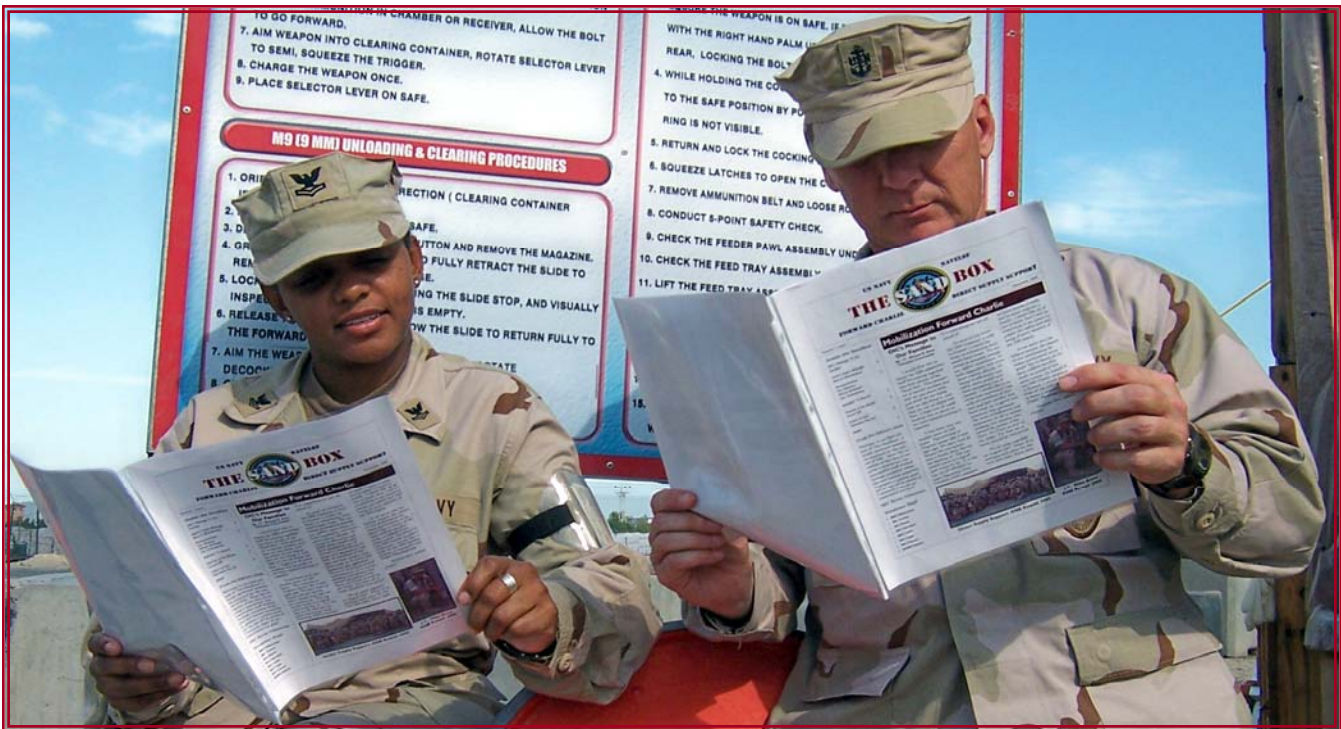
In late October, as the weather began to shift from hot, hotter, hottest to cool, cooler and coolest, Petty Officer Houdek began to envision the sailors of the 30 point wash rack braving the elements on the midnight shift. After considering all of the possibilities, there was only one solution-- "I will build a hooch," he said. Petty Officer Houdek would make it his job to build a structure that would protect himself and his crew from the rain, wind and frigid temperatures that November would bring.

Armed with a hammer and a dream, Petty Officer Houdek made his vision a reality. After searching the entire base for spare parts and discarded supplies, Petty Officer Houdek and his crew pieced together what would become the hooch. Within two days the crew assembled the shelter that would alas; protect them from the elements.

Today the hooch can be seen at the 30 point wash rack standing tall and ready for duty. The makeshift shelter has done a superb job of protecting its sailors and soldiers from the cold and rain, heat, and windy weather. Inside the hooch, personnel can be seen happy and warm, or cool in the shade. The hooch has provided space for conveniences such as a table and chairs, helmet racks, and some kitchen items. All who benefit from the hooch are grateful for Petty Officer Houdek's initiative and hard work.



## Pictures of the Month



Looks like the word is getting out.



No need to dismantle it. Just move it!



Not to worry, I'll just blend in.



Just a few friends over for Thanksgiving.

## Morale, Welfare & Recreation Halloween Support

By SK3 Alec Francis

Halloween at KNB was filled with fun for the soldiers, sailors, and airmen here in Kuwait. Although we were short on costumes, many service men and women came out to have a good time. Activities of the day included: the MRE throw, where the object is to throw an MRE into a drum. If you succeed, you win a prize or you return to the back of the line and try again. There were the aliens from the outer Galaxy

who came to support OIF/OEF, and even a couple witches who also wanted to see action here in Kuwait. There was plenty of food and drink on Halloween night. Next time we deploy, we will make sure to pack a Halloween costume in our sea bags.



Coalition forces from far, far away in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



BM2 Sarasua & SK1 Atienza firing up the BBQ.



From L to R. SKCS McGregor, SK2 Perez, YN2 Granger, and SK3 Nelson after 5K run.

## Thanksgiving at KNB

By SK1 Fay Culver

**CAMP PATRIOT, KNB**—When we first heard about the different bases/camps in Kuwait, they called Arifjan AJ and Kuwait Naval Base KNB. We thought they were saying K and B. What did I know? KNB turned out to be a small compound similar to a small community. We have our local diner (the DFAC, or dining facility), and the community development center (MWR, or Moral, Welfare and Recreation). This group of mostly of volunteers plan the events in our small town.

Since arriving, I discovered that any excuse to run is a good one, and the MWR group takes advantage of that fact. There are 5K runs for every event, with a tee shirt for all participants. So it stands to reason that we begin our Thanksgiving Day with a 5K Run. I don't particularly start my holidays registering at 0530 to run at 0600 but to my surprise, on this day there were 356 runners which is not bad for a small community.

I visited with the MWR group at about 0930 that morning, as they were getting ready to catch up on some sleep before the evening event. Our group has a dinner date this evening with Admiral Stone. The Admiral makes the rounds shaking hands with everyone and asks me if I dislike turkey when he sees Prime Rib on my plate. I explained that they had run out of sliced turkey, and that I had eaten turkey cutlet earlier in the week. This was a small change to my normal Thanksgiving meal. I did manage to get some dressing, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce and of course the pumpkin pie. It was of course Thanksgiving. Instead of the Thanksgiving football games on TV at home, movies are shown on the TVs throughout the DFAC. We watch our football games during breakfast the following morning, no Good Morning America for us.

We talked about holiday traditions while we ate. Someone said they went fishing with the other men in the family while the spouses cooked. Someone else said they normally have snack foods all day long while watching football. Here, we eat off of the usual trays, with disposable utensils and paper napkins. Brightly colored paper banners are strung throughout the DFAC with the occasional paper turkey.

Later in the day, there's major confusion in the barracks as the scavenger hunt begins. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines are racing through the compound looking for items such as a John Denver CD or a marshmallow. Where would anyone get a can of Spam? Believe it or not someone actually found one.

So ends our Thanksgiving Day, 2005.